

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings includes changes to Fig. 5, 9, 11B and 18D and replaces the original sheet including Fig. 5, 9, 11A-11C, and 18C-18D.

In Figure 5, reference number 504 has been corrected to show the mounting hole.

In Figure 9, reference number 900 has been added to show the microcontroller.

In Figure 11B, reference numbers 1112 and 1114 have been added to show the power pins

Figure 18D has been correctly numbered on page 18. This figure was previously incorrectly labeled as a duplicate figure 18B.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheets (4 pages)

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above referenced application are respectfully requested.

Initially, the indication that Claims 3, 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form is appreciatively noted. Claims 3 and 9 are rewritten into independent form and hence should be allowable as per the indication of same.

Many, but not all, of the limitations of Claim 8 have been added into Claim 1, and corresponding limitations have also been added into Claims 10, 17, and 23. These limitations recite that the modular blocks can be disconnected by moving them in a direction substantially perpendicular to the display surface, but cannot be connected or disconnected by moving them in a direction parallel to that display surface. This claimed subject matter is not taught, suggested, or in any way fairly motivated by the cited prior art, either singly or in combination.

Tamura et al. teaches a display module which has parts that can be connected together. Note, however, that these parts are connected using the tabs 24A-C and the slots 18A-C. This requires that the devices be moved in a direction parallel to the front surface of the display in order to connect them together. The difficulty in this, of course, is that a unit

towards a center area of an assembled display could be difficult to replace.

Claims like Claim 1 also recite edge contacts, and the interlocking would make connections to those contacts. The interlocking direction defined by Claim 1 could simplify connecting without shorting between those contacts. If Tamura et al. had edge contacts, those contacts might be shorted out when the modules were moved parallel to the connection surface.

Motoshima et al. teaches a display system, but teaches nothing about interlocking in this way.

Claim 10 defines similar interlocking and connection, and should be allowable for similar reasons to those noted above.

Claim 17 defines similar interlocking and electrical connections, and should similarly be allowable for similar reasons to those discussed above.

Claim 23 defines similar interlocking and interconnection and should similarly be allowable.

Claim 22 defines determining positions of each of the display panels and forming a map defining the positions and sending an overall display to the device. The rejection alleges that Tamura's figure 10 item 10 shows this, which the undersigned believes to refer to panels 10A, 10B, 10C, and 10D in Tamura. Of course, a person might use this display panel, as disclosed at column 5 line 30, as a single display device.

However, Tamura has no teaching or suggestion that a map is formed, as required by the claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully suggested that each of these claims should be in condition for allowance.

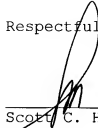
In addition, many of the dependent claims should be independently allowable on their own merits. For example, Claim 16 defines tri-state buffers which are not taught or suggested by Tamura et al. The cited section of Tamura et al.: column 5 lines 25-40, simply discusses "LCD drivers". Tamura does not disclose tri-state buffers.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants ask that all claims be allowed. Please apply the \$225 extra claim fee, and any credits or additional charges, to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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